

remarks from Hanley, 'Recent Shells,' and see no reason to regard the species as anything else than an abnormal form of *spongiarum*, Lam.

19. *Vulsella Hügeli*, Parreiss.

*Hab.* Coast of New Holland (*Martini*).

I know nothing of this species. From the description in an incomplete monograph of Martini, and from a specimen in the Brit. Mus. (labelled *Hügeli*, d'Essing, India), it would seem not to differ from *spongiarum*, Lam.

VIII.—*Description of an apparently new Species of Scincus from Muscat.* By JAMES A. MURRAY, Curator of the Kurrachee Museum.

*Scincus muscatensis.*

Snout rather long, longer than that of *Scincus arenarius*, Murray (Vert. Zool. Sind), the space between the eyes being less than the length of the snout. Rostral spatulate, twice as broad as high, rounded behind and in contact with the prefrontal; supranasals separate; nostril between the first labial, the supra- and the postnasal, and the lateral angle of the rostral; two postnasals, the posterior larger; one large preocular or loreal equalling the prefrontal in length, and forming a suture with the hind edge of the second postnasal, the fourth and fifth upper labials, the first superciliary, and a large shield in front of the lower eyelid; the latter five-sided and as broad at the base as it is high; upper labials eight or nine. Prefrontal six-sided, its front angles in contact with the supranasals and rostral, its lateral angles in contact with the postnasals on each side, and the hind angles in contact with the postfrontals. Postfrontals broadly in contact together, rather rounded in front and subtriangular behind; their lateral angles are in contact on each side with the large preocular plate and the hind outer angles form a suture with two thirds only (or the whole in some) of the first superciliary. Vertical once and a half its greatest breadth, extending behind as far as the outer edge of the fourth superciliary.

Dorsal scales 18, reckoned from above the angle of the abdomen; 26 rows round the middle of the body. The fore leg laid forward reaches the eye; the hind leg laid forward reaches the tips of the fingers. Two large preanal shields.

Colours as in *Scincus arenarius*; a mesial dark spot on each scale edged on both sides with yellowish white, forming inter-

rupted longitudinal bands; a dark streak from the nostril to the eye; 8 to 10 vertical reddish-brown streaks along the sides, beginning from in front of the forearm. Young without these vertical streaks.

From *Scincus arenarius* it differs in the shape of the prefrontal, which is six-sided instead of heart-shaped; in having 26 instead of 28 rows of scales round the body; in the postfrontals extending behind to only two thirds, or in some specimens the entire width of the first superciliary; in having two small postnasals instead of one long one; also in the first suborbital scale in front of the lower eyelid being as broad at the base as high, and five-sided instead of elongate, and nearly twice its greatest breadth.

These differences are exhibited in all my specimens, thirteen in number.

The following Table will exhibit the differences between this and other species. Of *S. Hemprichii* I have no description.

	Rostral and prefrontal.	Supra-labials.	Suborbital labials.	Dorsal scales.	Scales round body.	Superciliary shields.	No. of specimens ex <sup>d</sup> .
<i>S. meccensis</i> * . . . .	In contact	7	5th & 6th	16	?	5	
<i>S. mitranus</i> * . . . . .	do.	8	?	?	?	5	
<i>S. officinalis</i> * . . . .	do.	8	6th & 7th	18	?	6	
<i>S. arenarius</i> . . . . .	do.	8	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{2} \text{ of } 5\text{th,} \\ 6\text{th, \& } 7\text{th} \end{array} \right.$	20	28	6	7
<i>S. muscatensis</i> . . . .	do.	8-9	6th & 7th	18	26	6	13
<i>S. conirostris</i> . . . . .	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Not in} \\ \text{contact} \end{array} \right.$	8	6th & 7th	20	28	6	8

IX.—On the *Geodephagous* Coleoptera collected by Mr. George Lewis in Ceylon. By H. W. BATES, F.R.S.

THE collection of Coleopterous insects made by Mr. George Lewis during a five months' residence in the island of Ceylon in the cold season of 1881-82, viz. from November 27th to

\* From Blanford's notes in P. Z. S. 1881, p. 677.